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Bay City News Service Report

U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, and San Jose City Councilwoman Pat Dando are touring the top of Mount Umunhum today as part of a campaign to secure federal funds to clean up more than 15,000 acres of open space.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District purchased the former Almaden Air Station from the federal government in 1986. The 15,525-acre property includes extensive wildlife habitat and panoramic views of both the San Francisco and Monterey bays, according to district spokeswoman Stephanie Jensen.

"The district owns practically the entire mountain," Jensen said. "There are trail opportunities over to the ocean that are absolutely stupendous."

Before the area can be opened to the public, an estimated \$5 million to \$10 million worth of cleanup needs to be done on the site.

"We have a lot of unsafe buildings. They are full of lead and asbestos," Jensen said.

When the district purchased the property in 1986, the Reagan administration did not provide any money to clean up the old military base but officials hope to rectify that now.

If the necessary money is secured, the district hopes to have the property open to the public by the middle of the decade, Jensen said.